# THE NOTICEBOARD

70TH ISSUE



# **Editor's Note**

Apologies for the lateness of this issue. The months of May and June have been rather busy, however, it is here now and I hope you enjoy reading it.

This issue is more "newsy" than previous editions hence why it's a bit shorter, but we have some feel good articles and interesting stories for you.

The Next Noticeboard will be September with the deadline for articles being Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Happy reading!

Eilidh Richmond
Editor of The Noticeboard

# Culbokie Community Outdoor Market Every Saturday 10.00-11.00 Findon Hall Car Park

# High quality local food

All the usual food stalls and much more now restrictions are easing, including Rockness Craft – jewellery and painted items, Lismhor Pottery, tweed, wool and knitted items, wax melts.

# Make it a date and support our local producers

Please wear a face covering at the market

Social distancing will be observed

# **Culbokie Sharing Shed**

Open Every Day 0900-1800 (2000 on Wed)

Many thanks for your continued support and many donations. Please keep them coming as it's being well used.

Sadly, we have recently had two incidents of vandalism at the shed, where items have been damaged, moved and general mess was left for our team of volunteers to clear up. These were reported to the police. Please keep an eye out if you are around the area and report any unusual activity – the contact information is on the shed. Many thanks.

To keep up-to-date with what's available join the Culbokie Sharing Shed group on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/343545136916931/

# **Black Isle Photographic Competition 2021**

The third annual Black Isle Photo Competition is well underway, and, with brighter summer days ahead here on the Black Isle, the light is perfect for taking a selection of images to highlight this year's theme, 'Food and Drink of the Black Isle'. Just three digital images are required in adult, teenage or child categories for the chance to win cash prizes generously donated by sponsors, Tulloch Homes.

With the closing date of July 31<sup>st</sup>, there is time to put your own interpretation to the theme. You might want to capture the colour of local produce at a Black Isle open air market stall, farm shop or garden, or the bustle around our harbours and in our cafes and restaurants, or the rich pickings in our hedgerows and fields. Here are two images from our archives that fit the theme: one close-up and one telephoto image.





Details of the competition plus further ideas on interpreting the theme will be posted on Culbokie Community Trust website in the coming weeks. In the meantime, follow this link for further information on how to enter: <a href="https://www.culbokiect.org/news.asp?intente-viewstory&newsid=108013">https://www.culbokiect.org/news.asp?intente-viewstory&newsid=108013</a>

Scroll down on the home page to the poster image for the

# The history of the '*The Noticeboard*', the newsletter of the Ferintosh Community Council. Submitted by Roger Piercy.

After the formation of the Ferintosh Community Council in 1974 the feeling had existed for some time that there was a need of a method of communicating regularly with the community and it was decided to create a newsletter. As I was developing my Desktop Publishing skills in my role as PT Computing Studies at Dingwall Academy it fell to me to be editor and publisher using the primary school photocopier made available by the head teacher Stuart Greaves.

Unfortunately there is very little physical and digital information available of the early days of the *The Noticeboard* which was the name selected for the newsletter.

The first evidence we have is issue 13 which is dated February 1991.

Publication continued every 2 months until issue 90, April 2002 when I dropped out of FCC affairs.

We now move on to the AGM of FCC in April 2007 where, having returned to FCC duties and the role of vice chairman via the formation of the Ferintosh Environment Group in February 2004, Carol Elliot volunteered her services as editor so as to reintroduce the *The Noticeboard*. It took me a while to negotiate arrangements with her and her first issue, issue 1, was June 2008 with me continuing as publisher and continued through to Issue 53, June 2018 when she handed over Editorial duties to Eilidh Richmond.

The next major change in the life of the *The Noticeboard* was with issue 60 in November 2019 when I handed over the duties of printing to Becky Richmond.

A full history of The Noticeboard can be found here.

After having been responsible for the production and distribution of approximately150 issues you would think I would have a host of stories to tell about the distribution but everything went so smoothly, but a few might be of interest. Winter was always the most challenging time and one evening negotiating a track that I wasn't too familiar with I took a wrong turn and disappeared down a slippery track and on

turning found myself stuck. Fortunately the family I was delivering to lived close by and came and rescued me. One of the problems associated with delivering the bundles was that not every house had a convenient letterbox and on another winter's afternoon with snow about to get worse I had to deliver to a new house and was confronted with only a doorstep, semi-protected. Seeking the most sheltered corner I left the bundle anticipating the early arrival of the owner. Playing safe I sent an email explaining what I had done and on not getting a response I began to panic, and, yes, you've probably guessed it I had to go back, rescue the bundle from the now. damp, doorstep and take them home to dry them out. Only once did I make the mistake of putting two thin bundles through the letter box and having to back-track to retrieve the missing bundle. The last story is one that all postman are familiar with and that is an excitable dog which in my case resulted in a new pair of trousers! Oh! the joys.

The fascinating thing about reminiscing is that it reminds you of decisions with which we were faced to take. For years we struggled with whether we should take advantage of modern technology and go digital but even though we partly embraced the situation by offering digital versions to school pupils we felt that we had to stay with the paper version and rely on the continued support of our volunteer distributors. Well, COVID soon sorted that out because after I had handed over the production to Becky only one paper copy could be produced and distributed. Given the wide ranging database of FCC resident addresses hopefully we haven't left too many of our Community bereft of this wonderful source of information.

# Loch Culbokie? no, Culbokie Loch!

Since whenever, the shallow pond in the woods has always been Culbokie Loch for us - on the One-Inch OS map we had on the wall, in talking to anyone. Imagine our surprise recently at noticing on the current OS map that they now have it as "Loch Culbokie". Of course when you know your local area you tend not to look at the map but checking back, it's been that way since OS went metric in the 1970s. But it was Culbokie Loch on the very first edition in the 1860s - why the change? Did someone in Southampton decide that Scottish/Gaelic usage always put 'Loch 'first? Nope, there are plenty of exceptions, from Fionn Loch by Poolewe to Duddingston Loch in Edinburgh.

There is an obscure link on the OS website if you really want to suggest a correction - but experience tells that they take a lot of persuading." Ve never make mistakes"...

So a trawl of the web came up with good solid examples of **Culbokie Loch** at ü Ross and Cromarty Heritage - old photo of anglers there, with its name written on ü Highland Council - Historic Environment Record - features at Culbokie Loch ü Black Isle Info - recommends Culbokie Loch walk

ü Visit Scotland - Black Isle Walking with Horses - local walk including Culbokie Loch ü Scotland 360 - aerial photo by Black Isle resident captioned Culbokie Loch ü Culbokie Community Trust - several mentions of Culbokie Loch ü and Forestry Scotland, who only happen to own it, scores of cases and just one with 'Loch Culbokie' X Geograph photo by someone linking it to an OS base - who would naturally conform to published OS usage.

This has proved a sufficiently mighty sledgehammer to crack our wee nut. OS have now responded saying the online Mastermap will be corrected from 21st June, and paper maps as soon as reprinted.

Of course, the extent of the poor wee loch has shrunk somewhat since its Victorian heyday. Being so shallow, it silts up and vegetates naturally, but drainage ditches to create space for a few more conifers haven't helped. Maybe they should be blocked up, as is now quite common on nature reserves. Maybe we might even photograph anglers by it again some day...

Anyway well done OS for doing the decent thing and honouring the long history of our wee puddle.





Anglers at Culbokie Loch.

# **Glascairn Community Project Update**

The full planning application for the Glascairn Community Project has now been submitted at can be viewed on the Highland Council planning portal (Reference number 21/01930/FUL). CCT has consulted the community at each key stage of the development of this project - so we don't think there are any big surprises in this application. We'd encourage everyone living in the area to take a look and, if you like what you see, please register your support. There is also an opportunity for public comment on matters of 'material planning consideration' and we'd welcome views of this nature.

It is very heartening to see a comment registered on the portal from the Highland Council Development Plans Principle Planner noting a high degree of conformity of our proposals with the Local Plan and including the following comments:

- This is a village centre site and will create an attractive, landscaped village hub and meeting place. Net betterment is likely to occur.
- The application layout offers good, direct and attractive, active travel connectivity within the site and in terms of off-site connectivity.
- The greenspace indicated within the site exceeds normal quantitative standards, is publicly accessible and appears of good quality.

We think this is a bit unusual and it's great to get such a strong endorsement of our plan. We are also delighted to announce that Tulloch Homes has agreed to make a further contribution to our plans by implementing most at-ground and below-ground elements of the village green while they are on site including our extra footpath loop and groundwork for the shelter and outdoor table tennis. These works are worth at least an additional £10k to CCT and we are very grateful to Tulloch for this extra contribution.

Work on refreshing the Feasibility Study and Business Plan, originally undertaken in 2014, has now begun with help from consultancy firm Alan Jones Associates under a sponsorship arrangement with the North Highland Initiative. This will bring the plans bang up to date and will be a key document in pulling together the full funding package for the plan.

Penny Edwards
Culbokie Community Trust
Info@culbokiect.org

## New flexible community bus service introduced on Black Isle

A new flexible bus service in the Ferintosh Community Council area of the Black Isle is being introduced from Monday 28 June, making it easier for local residents to use public transport. The demand responsive service will operate between 9.30 am – 4.15 pm, Monday to Friday, and complement the scheduled peak services on Service 22 to Inverness that will continue to be operated by Stagecoach.

It will take residents to and from Tore Service Station where passengers can join any of Stagecoach's mainline A9 buses. Passengers can also book journeys between any two points within the Ferintosh Community Council area. Just like an ordinary bus, it is available to all residents in (and visitors to) the Ferintosh Community Council area, which includes Culbokie in the east to Mulbuie in the west, Mulbuie Ridge in the south down to the Cromarty Firth in the north)

All journeys, including concessionary travel, will be no more costly than current fixed route journeys, even although the journey to /from Inverness is a two bus journey The National Entitlement Card can be used with this service. The cost of a bus journey is very much lower than the fuel and parking costs of a private vehicle or a taxi fare.

A bonus is that during the pilot, estimated to run until March 2022 a 5-seater (plus wheelchair place) an electric vehicle will replace the diesel Sprinter (16-seater). By the time it is introduced it is hoped to have volunteer drivers trained, registered, PVG checked and insured to enable the community service to be available through late afternoon into night time and also on Saturdays / Sundays thus providing essentially a 24/7 service. The modest fares for these volunteer services have not yet been decided.

The aim is for Ferintosh Community Council area residents to have 7 day access to all Stagecoach's A9 services at Tore Service Station. For example, for the first time, residents will be able to access evening events and activities in Inverness.

The pilot scheme is a partnership of HITRANS, the regional transport partnership, Stagecoach, The Highland Council, CSI Ross-shire and Ferintosh Community Council (supported by Culbokie Community Trust). It is supported through an EU InterReg project called MOVE which seeks to improve public transport provision through collaborative solutions.

Bruce Morrison, who is leading the project on behalf of Ferintosh Community Council, said: "The current fixed route bus service is used by a very small number of residents. Demand responsive bus services are proving more useful for residents in rural areas and this pilot we hope will prove to be more valuable to more of our residents. The more useful we can make this service, the easier it will be to sustain valuable public transport for years to come."

Neil MacRae, Partnership Manager at HITRANS, said: "The Ferintosh Community Bus is an example of a demand responsive form of public bus transport that is proving increasingly popular in rural communities across the country because it provides a more accessible, more frequent and more sustainable service for local residents. It is of particular assistance to residents who live remote from regular fixed route bus services. The frequency of bus journeys can therefore now be increased since the community bus will only be travelling within a small constrained area and will link with the more frequent A9 bus services operated by Stagecoach."

For more information please contact Bruce Morrison on 01349 877 127 or at ferintoshcc30@gmail.com

A leaflet promoting the new service is available by clicking on this link



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And a BONUS for the FCC area Community 5 until 5 for the FCC area Community 5 until 5 for the strained Autumn 2021 a small 5 assere jobs whechcair placed identice which will higher the disease Sprinter (16 seated, by then we are planning to have volunteer divines trained, registered, PVG checked and insured to enable the FCE to be available through the attention into hight time and also no Sundays thus providing essentially a 247 service the modern time for these volunteer sensions have not yet been decided. So for 7 days a week, FCC area residents will have access to all Stagecochi AS services at Dos Service Station. For example, for the first time, residents will be able to access evening events and activities in Inverveus.

# is the FCB Pilot just to link with A9 bus

Who is putting this pillot together? A partnership of HITRANS, Stagecoach, The Highland Council, CSI Rossiship and Ferincosh Community Council supported by Culbokie Community Trust) has assembled this pilot.

Who can I contact for more informati-Your local community councillor for this pilot is Bruce Morrison who you can contact on 01349 877 127 or at ferintoshcc30@email.com











HI (>) TRANS

Ferintosh Community Bus S22

From 28th June 2021

For bookings phone: 07519 722 456 / 07519 772 376



What is the Ferintosh Community Bus (FCB)? The FCB is a rise flexible bus service for residents in the Ferintosh Community Council (FCC) also, and the Ferintosh Community Council (FCC) also, and the Ferintosh Community Council (FCC) also the service 22 immediately, the rise (FCB will operate between 09:30 - 18.15 and take residents to and from Tore Service Station where passengers can join any of Segeouch's service where passengers can join any of Segeouch's service where passengers can join any of Segeouch's service where any two points within the Ferintosh area (See etc) before the Ferintosh area (See etc) before the Point Service (See etc).

map become.

The FCB is an example of a demand responsive form of public bus transport (sustainmed for the Ferintiam area) that, around the UK and beyond, is proving to provide a more accessible, more trequent and more sustainable service for runs residents. Generally, runs insidents live considerable deliancies from freed nout to us reviews and the FCB, can State also be public counts as a flexible considerable for the FCB, can State also be public counts as a flexible considerable row be increased some the FCB and state of the transition with the more than the form of the form of the FCB and the state of the state of the FCB and the state of the state of the FCB and the state of the FC

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At the Tore Service Station, the PCB will meet the A9 bus thaning slovened off the A9 for passanger transfer. The PCB will plan to arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the service of the chosen A9 bus. Passangers will be welcome to use the cafe houler facilities at Tore Service Station or may prefer to wist on the PCB.

\*Tore Service Station is open 06.00 - 22.00 (Merr Thurs), 06.00 - 21.00 (Frl), 07.30 - 20.00 (Sat) and 09.00 - 20.00 (Sun) Refer to the tear off timetable attached.

When can I baves? Sugarcache will continue to operate a peak time Service 22 Smetable joster to sear off timetable attached; while the PCS will operate testimen 65 30.1—16.1 The PCB can be organized to collect you in the Fernition area for contrast journally or from Time Service Station for retrum journal between 69 30.1—16.15 Monaling to Friday.

How do I book H?

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Because the PCB could be carrying a small number of other residents in other parts of the PCC sea, both residents and the administration will agree a time which will then be adhered to. The PCB will collect you even if you am the only passenger.

What is the fare?
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Why is a demand responsive, flexible route and flexibly timed service being piloted? The numer fixed route lists service is used by a very anil number of residents. Francisi support for public lists services from Countils around the UK is in declice as funding as diversed towards services required by higher numbers of residents. Demand responsive but services are proving more usual for residents in rural areas and therefore vasies for Councils to justify financial support.

Ferintosh Community Bus
Operates between any two points as the Farinteels
Community Council are and to/from Time Service Station
to connect with the environs below.
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For bookings phone: 07519 722 456 / 07519 772 376

# 'Eco-granddad' Tom Thomas award British Empire Medal

Known to the Locals as 'Tom-tom' or 'Eco-grandad', Tom Thomas had been a much-loved member of the Maryburgh Community for many years. A retired gardener, Tom continues to work to keep the village maintained and shares his knowledge of gardening with the children at the local Ben Wyvis Primary.

As a retired Police Officer, Tom moved to the north 19 years ago. He gets stuck into the community as a community councillor and credits his helpers Eilidh Green and Fiona McHardy for keeping the flowers blooming around the village.

For anyone who has met Tom, they will know him to be a much-loved member of the community and the warmest person to be around.

This isn't the first time that Tom has gone above and beyond, when he rushed to the aid of a crashing helicopter carrying three police officers and a civilian pilot. As the helicopter came crashing into a luxury block of flats, Tom didn't think twice about rushing to aid of those in need and pulling the three survivors to safety. Sadly, whilst one police constable lost his life, thankfully no else was seriously injured.

Tom later attened the Queen's Garden Party and received a Chief Constable's letter of commendation, but modestly declined a police bravery award.

As a helicopter crash hero, cancer survivor and a well-loved community member throughout the entire Black Isle, I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Tom. I have the pleasure most days of making Tom his breakfast or Lunch as he is a welcomed regular at Munros Nurseries Coffee shop, and it's always a pleasure to have a chat with him. Tom is also a pre-COVID regular at Culbokie Church Centre Man Friday sessions and Culbokie Church Café.

# Congratulations Tom!



Photo Credit @Sandy McCool/DCT Media [online] Available @. https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands/3224938/queens-birthday-honours-gardener-known-as-eco-grandad-to-highland-school-pupils-gets-a-gong

Since our last Chair report, it has been a difficult year for us all.

Our Council unfortunately lost 3 of our members over the last year. I would like to thank all 3 of our members, Becky as Chair, Eilidh as Treasurer and Gordon as a council member for their contributions to the Council and our residents.

I was voted in as vice Chair in January and have since then been involved in representing many of the Chair roles. Thank you to my colleagues and residents for their support.

As the Covid pandemic grew over the year we were all faced with many challenging situations arising from this. The residents of Ferintosh Community Council area rose to the challenge and from this extremely serious and distressing situation there came a lot of positivity.

Volunteers were on hand to aid all those residents who were unable to do the normal tasks for themselves. Highland Council has been a great source of information and help, and this has enabled us to help those residents most in need over the year. Thanks also to our local Councillors who have ensured that information and funding have been correctly directed. It has been a good example of people working together and proof of great community spirit.

Our meetings have still gone ahead, but like most of the meetings since lockdown, these have been virtual. The positive side to this is that there have been residents who in the past have been unable to attend meetings in person, but who had the opportunity to join via the online platform.

We have continued to act on behalf of our residents but due to the restrictions some of the outstanding issues have been put on hold. We did, however, have projects over the year which many of you responded to, and thanks to all of you for the support with these.

Ferintosh Community Bus – Major progress has been made and steps are in place for making this a reality. Thanks to Bruce and Alison for their time and hard work to make this project more than just a possibility. Unfortunately, the project has come across an unforeseen issue at the later stages, but I am sure there will be a

- solution and we will be celebrating the first buses doing their rounds soon.
- Munlochy junction this was a major concern and there has been input from all the Black Isle Community Councils along with Cllr Gordon Adam. Many discussions have taken place with various organisations to resolve the concerns of residents. These organisations are in the process of find a suitable solution and we are hopeful that this will be resolved before too long.
- Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan

   we had an informative zoom meeting with Tim Stott to discuss what the changes from the old plan was, and how these would affect our area. The consultation has still to be finalised but there were many useful suggestions fed back to Highland Council from our consultation with residents and our discussions at our meeting.
- Sharing shed we contributed to the shed, and it has been a popular and worthwhile project.

Our website continues to be updated and we encourage our residents to have a look at this, as well as our Face Book page, to see the latest information.

The Noticeboard will still be in production as Eilidh has kindly offered to continue with this. Please make use of this valuable community voice.

As we come out of lockdown and the current restrictions ease there will, I am sure, be more challenges and much for us to look at and action. We are always keen to know what residents would like us to do, so please do let us know if there are certain areas which you feel we should be looking at.

When we are given the permission, we shall be holding our usual face to face meetings, and we shall let you know when we are able to see you back at these. Until then we will still be holding our online meetings which you are welcome to attend.

Karen Harcus Chair